

The Visitor

Jamal pulled up outside. He turned off the engine and sat there. In silence. Not ready to go in.

She must have heard the car because her face appeared at the window, partially hidden by the curtain that she was clinging to for protection. Who on earth would be visiting at this time of day? She was squinting, still refusing after all these years to wear the glasses she had been given. Pride was a family trait.

Jamal got out of the car and waved. As he drew closer to the window she rushed for the door. 'Why didn't you tell me you were coming?' She threw her arms around him before he could reply. It was the tightest of hugs, too long for Jamal, but much too short for his grandmother.

'I thought I'd surprise you,' said Jamal, peeling her away. They stepped into the front room. The same old frames on the walls had the same old pictures inside them. Family members who he couldn't recall. But there were new pictures too, in modern frames perched on the cabinet, presumably of great grandchildren. She moved cushions for him and told him to sit.

'Are these for me?' she asked, pointing to the box in Jamal's hand. The yellow box – her favourite. 'I'll make some tea.' But the kitchen was too far for her to go without first receiving another hug to content her. 'How sweet do you want your tea? You always used to have it very sweet.'

Jamal knelt down in front of the cabinet. The hinge on the door still hadn't been mended. Inside the cabinet was a glass jar that kept needles and thread, and there was a large envelope stuffed with pictures of his father that he had no need to open. His sketchbook was there too, right at the back of the cabinet. *This book belongs to Jamal, aged eight.*

Grandmother came back with tea on a tray. She opened the yellow box and offered Jamal the first biscuit. 'So you're going to be a doctor? I'm so happy I'm going to parade you around the village! I always knew you'd come good. You were always the smart one.'

He didn't have the courage to tell her that he had accepted a place at art school. Instead, he looked at the drawings in his sketchbook and told her that she made a great cup of tea.



- 21 Why did Jamal sit silently in his car?
- A He was preparing himself to deliver bad news.
 - B He was trying to make a decision about his education.
 - C He was admiring the car that he had worked so hard for.
 - D He was wondering if his grandmother would remember him.

- 22 Why did Jamal's grandmother delay greeting him?
- A She was initially annoyed that her day had been disrupted.
 - B She was too proud to show affection so quickly.
 - C She was suspicious of his earlier behaviour.
 - D She did not recognise him at first.

- 23 What seemed to be Jamal's feelings as he looked around his grandmother's house?
- A resentment and anger
 - B sympathy and concern
 - C familiarity and nostalgia
 - D impatience and judgement

- 24 Why didn't Jamal mention the art school to his grandmother?
- A He didn't think his grandmother would be interested.
 - B He didn't think his grandmother could keep a secret.
 - C He didn't want his grandmother to hug him again.
 - D He didn't want to disappoint his grandmother.

- 25 The passage ends with Jamal
- A postponing the inevitable.
 - B resolving to change his ways.
 - C making an effort to reconnect with family.
 - D putting good manners before his own needs.

Choose the correctly spelt word for each blank space.

Light Bulbs

Scientists have shown that **26** light bulbs are **27**, and they argue that these bulbs should be **28** out. Rather **29** however, some manufacturers are ignoring the scientific **30** and are continuing to produce the bulbs.

26 Choose the best option for space **26**.

- A incandecent
- B incandesent
- C incandecsent
- D incandescent

27 Choose the best option for space **27**.

- A inificient
- B inefficient
- C inneficient
- D innificient

28 Choose the best option for space **28**.

- A fased
- B faised
- C phased
- D phaised

29 Choose the best option for space **29**.

- A controversally
- B controversially
- C contraversially
- D contravershally

30 Choose the best option for space **30**.

- A evidence
- B evedance
- C evidiance
- D everdence



16 Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

- A A stirrup-shaped bone in the ear, the stapes is the smallest bone in the human body.
- B A stirrup-shaped bone in the ear, the stapes, is the smallest bone in the human body.
- C A stirrup-shaped bone in the ear; the stapes is the smallest bone in the human body.
- D A stirrup-shaped bone in the ear; the stapes, is the smallest bone in the human body.

17 Which word should have a colon (:) after it?

While reading about dolphins I discovered something interesting they belong to the same family of animals as whales.

- A dolphins
- B discovered
- C something
- D interesting

18 Which word should have a semi-colon (;) after it?

My uncle's favourite food is Japanese fish just makes him drool.

- A food
- B is
- C Japanese
- D fish

19 Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

- A "I will see you tomorrow" She said.
- B "I will see you tomorrow," she said.
- C "I will see you tomorrow", she said.
- D "I will see you tomorrow", She said.

20 Which punctuation mark should be used after the word *drive*?

There is only one car that Beckham will drive his wife told reporters.

- A comma (,)
- B dash (–)
- C colon (:)
- D semi-colon (;)

Choose the best word(s) for each blank space.

The Queue

On Saturday night, the girls **11** to bed early with **12** getting up before dawn. The plan was for them **13** at the front of the queue for the concert tickets. If they had remembered to set the alarm clock, they would not **14** to rush around like they did on Sunday morning. Clothes **15** everywhere as they clambered over each other to get out the door.

11 Choose the best option for space 11.

- A had gone
- B had went
- C were gone
- D had being going

12 Choose the best option for space 12.

- A an intention to
- B an intending of
- C the intention of
- D the intent to

13 Choose the best option for space 13.

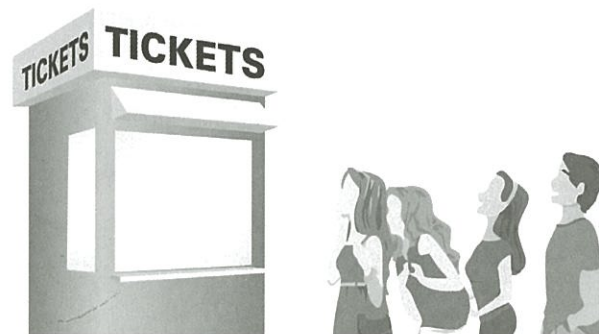
- A be
- B to be
- C to being
- D were being

14 Choose the best option for space 14.

- A had
- B have
- C have had
- D having had

15 Choose the best option for space 15.

- A did strew
- B be strewing
- C had strewed
- D were strewn



Replace the **bolded** words. The meaning of the text should remain the same.

Piano Recital

Although she was a **proficient** pianist, Tarli was always **apprehensive** about performing for dignitaries. I managed to **pacify** her by telling her that the president hadn't arrived. She couldn't see him sitting at the back, **obscured** by the bronze sculptures that he would later unveil. Some would say I was being **deceitful**, but I was just being a friend.

31 Select the best word to replace **proficient**.

- A novice
- B skilled
- C dynamic
- D professional

32 Select the best word to replace **apprehensive**.

- A curious
- B sceptical
- C annoyed
- D nervous

33 Select the best word to replace **pacify**.

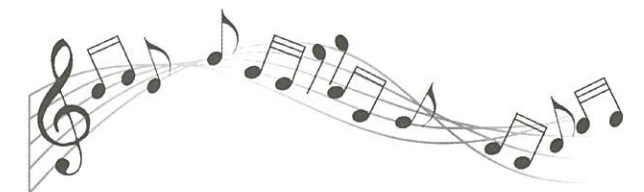
- A calm
- B trick
- C anger
- D distract

34 Select the best word to replace **obscured**.

- A fascinated
- B surrounded
- C hidden
- D seated

35 Select the best word to replace **deceitful**.

- A brutal
- B devious
- C disrespectful
- D overprotective



Deepsea Challenger

The Deepsea Challenger is a manned submersible vehicle – or ‘sub’. It was specifically designed to dive to the deepest spot in the world’s ocean, the Mariana Trench, nearly 11 kilometres below the surface. The objective of the mission was to not just reach the unexplored depths of the Earth but to stay there for sufficient time to capture 3D video images and to collect rock and mineral samples for scientific study.

The engineering challenges involved in creating such a vehicle were so substantial that it took seven years to develop the necessary equipment. A new kind of material had to be created for the sub’s frame that was strong enough to withstand the enormous crushing pressure at the bottom of the ocean. To aid buoyancy this material also had to be light, and so a special foam was invented consisting of millions of hollow glass spheres embedded in resin.

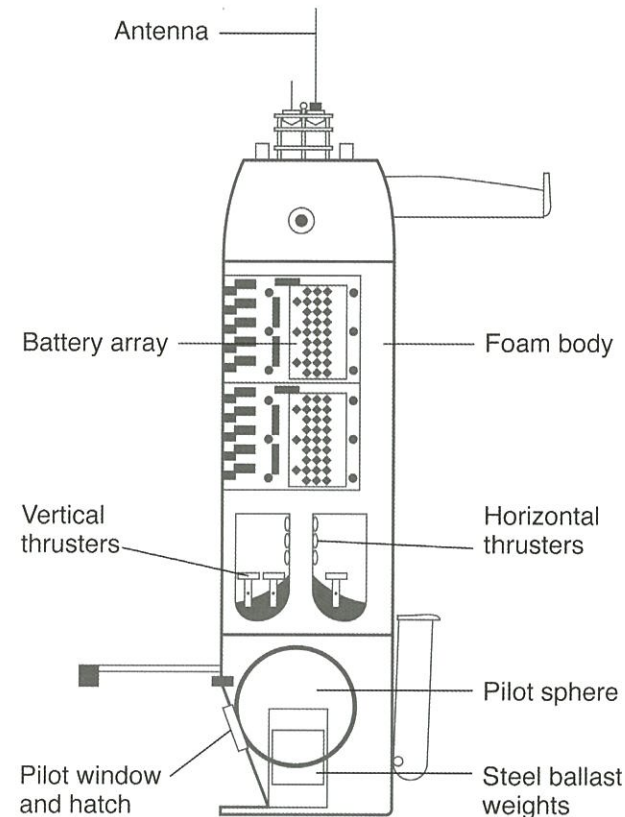
Whereas most other subs have a horizontal orientation, the Deepsea Challenger remains upright while diving. This unique approach allows the sub to move through the water more quickly, so it can stay longer at the bottom.

The 7.3 metre long sub consists of three sections. At the bottom is the cramped pilot sphere from where the sub is controlled. The main section, the beam, consists of 12 thrusters to propel the sub and more than 70 battery packs to power them. The batteries are spread over three different locations so that, in the event of an accident, the sub can still function. Above the beam are the sub’s communication systems.

The sub contains state-of-the-art equipment designed specifically for the mission. This includes a ‘slurp gun’ that acts like a vacuum cleaner sucking up mineral samples from the ocean floor, a mechanical arm that collects larger rock samples (and places them in a box) and eight 3D cameras.

The sub has 450 kilograms of steel weights attached to its body by electromagnets. The weights help the sub to descend. To resurface, the pilot flicks a switch to detach the weights and the low density foam does the rest.

The entire mission not only helped scientists learn about one of the most uncharted regions on the planet, it also helped to develop new technologies such as the foam that would have otherwise not been envisaged.



6 How does the author portray drones?

- A as a harmless toy
- B as a failed experiment
- C as a dangerous nuisance
- D as a technological marvel

7 What is the author most annoyed about?

- A the loss of privacy
- B the attitude of drone users
- C the increase in noise pollution
- D the lack of action from governments

8 Why does the author mention the increase in drone production?

- A to highlight how big the drone problem could become
- B to imply that drones are becoming cheaper to produce
- C to suggest that drones are just another short-lived fad
- D to show that drone makers ignore safety standards

9 What is the author doing by asking questions in the last paragraph?

- A raising issues that require attention
- B showing that he is open to suggestions
- C presenting another side to the argument
- D encouraging drone users to join the debate

10 How does the author’s tone change from the first paragraph to the last?

- A from calm to agitated
- B from sarcastic to serious
- C from frustrated to hopeful
- D from indifferent to concerned

Drones



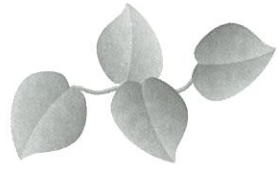
I was woken this morning by a loud buzzing outside my window. It was my neighbour's new drone – a monstrous hovering creation with four propellers, flashing lights and a camera. I shouted to him to turn it off but he was conveniently wearing headphones to escape from the noise.

Noise pollution aside, I have more important objections to the use of these gadgets by civilians. Available online to just about anyone, the majority of these drones are operated by people with no experience in aviation. 'Lighten up! It's a harmless toy,' you might say. But if one drops from the sky onto your head or gets smashed through your window by a gust of wind, you won't be so forgiving. The latest accident happened only last month: a rogue drone clipped the tail rotor of a police helicopter causing the helicopter to go into a spin before being forced to make an emergency landing. The helicopter was adhering to aviation rules, the drone was not. Drone manufacturing is increasing by a whopping 400% each year. With sky congestion a potential problem, a serious injury or fatality is inevitable unless the people operating drones are taught how to use them.

And there are privacy issues to consider too. If I'm relaxing in my garden, I don't expect to be watched. All drones have cameras: who knows where these images may end up. With drones buzzing around everywhere it will be incredibly difficult to maintain one's privacy; drone pilots are becoming the paparazzi of the skies.

So what can be done about them? Do we restrict the drone users to just the military and emergency services? Do we introduce a drone pilot license scheme similar to the one used for motor vehicles? Do we ban drones completely from built-up areas? One thing for sure is that we need some form of regulation, and we need it quickly. Government policy will always be one step behind consumer behaviour but we shouldn't have to wait for a major incident before acting.

- 36** Why did the Deepsea Challenger take so long to make?
- A It took time to find sponsors to fund the mission.
 - B The sub builders had to undergo extensive training.
 - C Existing technology was inadequate for the mission.
 - D Ocean conditions had to be studied before construction could begin.
- 37** What is the reason the sub was designed with a vertical orientation?
- A A vertical orientation allows the pilot greater visibility.
 - B The amount of time the sub can spend underwater is limited.
 - C Ocean currents greatly affect subs with a horizontal orientation.
 - D Communication between the sub and the onshore team needs to be fast.
- 38** Why are the batteries spread across the three sections of the sub?
- A so they can operate independently
 - B to provide backup in emergency situations
 - C so the main section of the sub does not overheat
 - D to help distribute the weight evenly across the sub
- 39** According to the text, what does the 'slurp gun' do?
- A It shoots jets of water to propel the sub.
 - B It creates a vacuum to keep the sub upright.
 - C It protects the sub from dangerous ocean creatures.
 - D It collects small rocks and minerals from the sea bed.
- 40** Which of these features helps the sub ascend to the surface?
- A thrusters
 - B steel weights
 - C mechanical arm
 - D hollow glass spheres



A Breath of Fresh Air



In 1989, the National Aeronautics Space Administration (NASA), in the United States, published the results of a study that demonstrated the ability of certain plants to clean air inside space stations. All plants make their own food via a process called photosynthesis. When plants photosynthesise they take in light, carbon dioxide and water and give off oxygen as a waste product. During photosynthesis, some plants also take in other airborne chemicals or pollutants. This is where they can be of particular use to us indoors.

People usually choose indoor plants for their appearance, but many plants can also provide a healthier home or office environment. As homes and offices have become better sealed and insulated to keep out the elements and save energy, the air inside has become less fresh. Without all those gaps and drafts, the air is trapped indoors exposing us for longer to the harmful chemicals that are prevalent in modern homes. Chemicals such as those listed in the table below have been associated with a range of harmful health effects including skin and eye irritations, headaches, respiratory problems, allergies, and even cancer.¹

Chemical	Sources in the home	Plants that filter this chemical
Benzene	Cleaning products Plastics Paints Car exhaust Cigarette smoke	Peace Lily Snake Plant Gerbera
Formaldehyde	Carpet Plywood Foam insulation Unvented fuel heaters Cigarette smoke	Peace Lily Snake Plant Dwarf date palm Rubber Plant Heartleaf Philodendron
Trichloroethylene	Varnishes Glues and resins Paint Vinyl flooring	Peace Lily Snake Plant Gerbera
Ammonia	Cleaning products Pet waste Fertilisers	Peace Lily

¹ Effects are dependent upon many factors including the level of exposure to the chemical.

- 1 The author uses a plant metaphor in the first paragraph to
- A introduce an original idea.
 - B disprove a popular theory.
 - C present a widely-held viewpoint.
 - D question a common misconception.

- 2 How is doodling presented in the first paragraph?
- A as a harmless way to pass time
 - B as a healthy way to relieve stress
 - C as an addiction that can be overcome
 - D as a problem that can get out of control

- 3 *But new research suggests that we have got it wrong.* (Paragraph 2)
What have we got wrong?

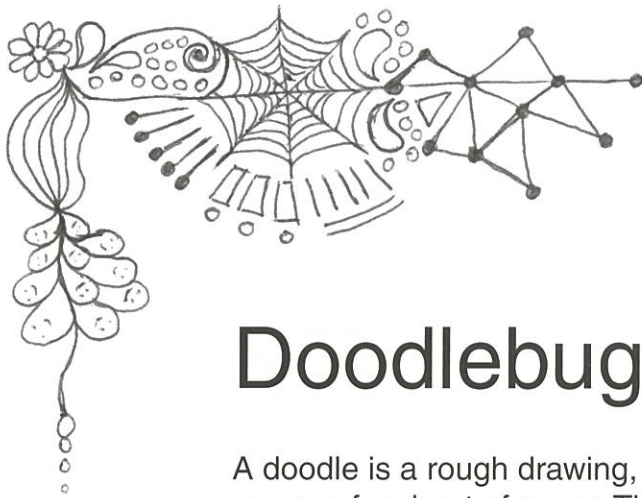
- A A doodle is a rough drawing.
- B Doodling is done absent-mindedly.
- C Doodling reduces our concentration.
- D The doodle may take a number of forms.

- 4 Why is Dr Hollingsworth's book mentioned in this text?

- A to encourage people to buy the book
- B to establish her credibility in the field
- C to allow readers to research her ideas further
- D to show that she should not be taken too seriously

- 5 According to Dr Hollingsworth, when does doodling work best?

- A when it is done without a specific aim
- B when it is done in short, sharp bursts
- C when the drawing represents a memory
- D when the doodler is very artistic



Doodlebug

A doodle is a rough drawing, often made absent-mindedly in the corner of a sheet of paper. The doodle appears when the doodler is supposed to be concentrating on other things, like a science lesson, for example. The doodle may take a number of forms but spider webs, boxes and plants are particularly common. The plant is an apt metaphor since doodles start off small and, if left unchecked, may grow to take over an entire sheet of paper, overwhelming what is supposed to be the focus of the page. Doodles – the weeds of the art world – are often seen as a blight on attentiveness.

But new research suggests that we have got it wrong. According to a study conducted by psychologists at a leading university, subjects who were encouraged to doodle while listening to a recorded phone call were able to recall almost thirty percent more information in an impromptu quiz later. Some neuroscientists now believe that doodling is beneficial to the brain as it actually helps the brain to remain actively engaged when it may otherwise switch off. The default networks of the cerebral cortex are kept stimulated allowing other, more important information to be absorbed. Doodling appears to keep the brain ticking over; if the brain were a car, doodling would keep its engine running while it waits at the lights.

‘Doodling helps people to take in information from new angles, creating new neural pathways,’ argues Dr Sienna Hollingsworth, author of *The Power of Doodling*. ‘Businesspeople should be given permission to doodle in meetings, and schoolchildren should not be reprimanded for doodling in class. Doodling can help some people to think, to find new ways of solving problems.’ In her book, Hollingsworth compares the doodled page to a holiday photo, suggesting that the details of the holiday are often forgotten until a picture stimulates information recall.

But doodling doesn’t work for everyone, she points out. ‘An individual who concentrates too much on a drawing may end up being oblivious to the information they are being asked to process. Productive doodling should never be planned; it should be organic and, ultimately, without purpose.’

- 41 What did NASA’s tests prove that plants do?
- A give off oxygen as a waste product
 - B incidentally take in a range of chemicals
 - C constantly require food for their survival
 - D take in carbon dioxide for photosynthesis

- 42 According to the table, which of the following can be filtered by a Heartleaf Philodendron?
- A Benzene
 - B Formaldehyde
 - C Trichloroethylene
 - D Ammonia

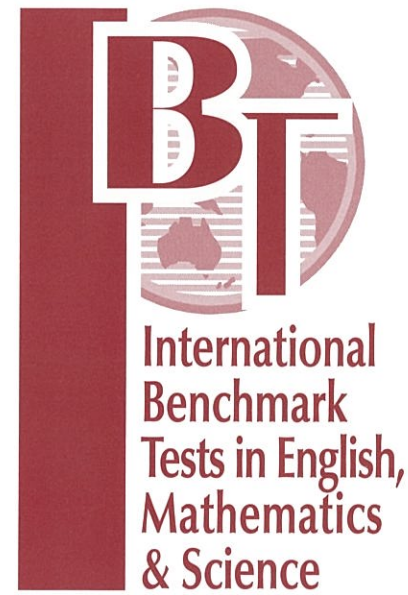
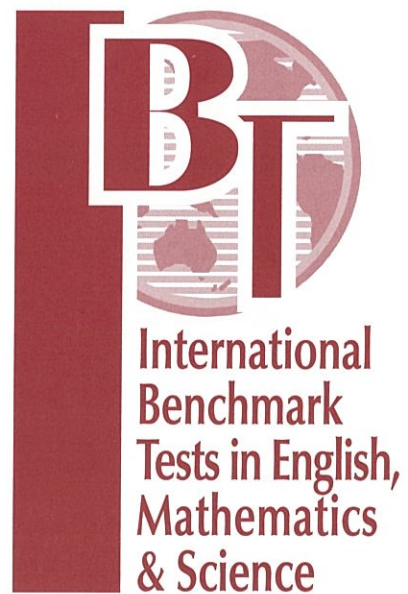
- 43 ¹Effects are dependent upon many factors including the level of exposure to the chemical.

What kind of information is in this footnote?

- A a qualification
- B an exception
- C an example
- D proof

- 44 According to the text, what is the benefit of drafts in homes?
- A They help keep rooms cool.
 - B They allow plants to breathe.
 - C They help reduce energy bills.
 - D They allow chemicals to escape.

- 45 What is the main purpose of this text?
- A to encourage people to use less toxic building materials
 - B to show that space travel can result in beneficial knowledge
 - C to discourage people from spending too much time indoors
 - D to assist people to improve the quality of the air around them



GRADE 9

2015

English

STUDENT NAME _____

NAME OF SCHOOL _____

TEST INSTRUCTIONS

FILL IN YOUR DETAILS

Turn to your ANSWER SHEET and fill in your name, school, grade, section, today's date, your date of birth and gender.

ANSWERING QUESTIONS

Go to the ENGLISH ANSWER SHEET.

This test has **45 QUESTIONS**. Each question has four possible options.

Choose the BEST answer from the four options, **A, B, C** or **D**.

FILL in ONE circle on your answer sheet with a pencil.

If you make a mistake, erase the pencil mark and fill in a different circle.

You must colour the entire circle as shown below:

Correct response



Incorrect responses



Line



Very light pencil



Pen



Colored pencil

Marks are NOT deducted for incorrect answers.

ALL ANSWERS SHOULD BE MARKED ON YOUR ANSWER SHEET ONLY.

EQUIPMENT ALLOWED IN THIS TEST

You may use a 2B or B pencil for this test. You may NOT use a dictionary for this test.

TIME ALLOWED FOR TEST

The time allowed to complete this test is **60 minutes**.